

MINUTES OF MEETING 19TH MAY 2007
CO-OPERATIVE SECTOR PROMOTION, RECOGNITION AND LEGISLATION WORKSHOP
FOR STATE CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATIONS
HELD AT MECURE HOTEL, SYDNEY

ATTENDEES: JIM SNEESBY (Chairman - NSW Fed Ltd)
HELEN McCALL (EO - NSW Fed Ltd)
JIM HOWARD (EO – CFQld)
DAVID OSGOOD (EO CFSA and CCA SECRETARY)
GRAEME CHARLES (EO CFV)
DAVID GRIFFITHS (Education Portfolio CFV)
CHRIS ENRIGHT (Meeting Chairman) (Chairman CFWA)
PETER WELLS (EO CFWA)
TRENT BARTLETT (Deputy Chairman CFWA)

Item No.	Topic	Acct	Date
2.0	<p>Opening and Welcome The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.20am and welcomed all attendees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A representative from each State was invited to give an update in terms of the status of co-operative legislation and the overall health of the co-operative sector <p>WA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WA spoke to the progress of the Green Bill, concerns in relation to the momentum of the National Working Party and the desire to see this legislation being viewed as satisfying consistent core provisions. It is anticipated that the White Bill may go before WA Parliament by the end of 2007. A request was made from Qld to have a copy of WA's Comparison of Green Bill Legislation to Qld legislation WA asked the question whether other states felt that the treatment of shares as permanent capital would be supported and it was felt by the majority that it had not been formally discussed and would most likely be a big issue. WA Government does not subscribe to National Template Legislation <p>VIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victoria advised that membership has declined significantly in the last decade with a number of the larger co-operatives becoming companies The Federation has no paid staff. The Board meet bi-monthly and the membership only has an opportunity to come together at the annual AGM Concern was expressed at what could be done to turn the situation around as the ability to increase membership is limited A lot of resources have put into the development of the web-site and co-operative specific education. The Victorian Federation extended an invitation to other Federations to consider how they might support/use/contribute to the development and running of the Website. <p>QLD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar issues to Victoria with a loss of a number of larger co-operative to company status leaving a total of around 180-200 Co-operatives stagnating as a sector Approx 60 members of the Federation who are not particularly active in Federation/industry matters – regular communication between the Board of six is facilitated by means other than meetings 		

	<p>SA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Similar diminishing membership issues (56 registered co-operatives with 13 currently members) to Victoria and Queensland - The 2 main members are Master Butchers and Community Co-op Store in Nurioopta - Federation Committee meets 4 times a year as well as an Annual Conference/AGM - Income LY was just over \$2k from membership fees - No full time staff - Very good working relationship with Corporate Affairs Officer previously who has now retired - Statistics would be emailed to add to the schedule <p>NSW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statistics have been supplied on the schedule - Similar issues in terms of larger co-operatives becoming corporates(now 750 registered co-operatives) - Not For Profits are probably two-thirds of the sector - Only State with a Council where the sector advises the Minister, however progress is typically "slow" - Sector has become interested in the role and influence of the Council on bureaucrats - No formal interaction between the Federation and the Council - Some issues are better dealt with via Council than Federation and vice-versa - Federation can go direct to the Minister - Only 4 Council meetings a year. Federation meets 4 times a year - In NSW, if you want to set up a licensed club – you needed to become a co-operative (but now it is a company). Some non-commercial clubs now starting off as incorporated associations - Some Government Departments putting pressure on Aboriginal Groups to get out of co-operatives despite earlier promotion that a co-operative structural sits well with aboriginal culture. <p>NATIONAL WORKING PARTY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Because it is resourced by NSW – there are adequate resources - New NSW Minister appointed at last election - NSW Cabinet as agreed to template legislation – it is important therefore to have core consistent provisions. - NWP acknowledge that not all States would come in on it and is aware that WA does not want to be a party to template legislation preferring to have its own legislation that satisfies the core consistent requirements. <p>QUESTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How are we going to progress this? - If WA could get its legislation through and accepted as core consistent and had mutual recognition, we would have all States on the same page in terms of core consistent. Could we then use this to push through template legislation to link up with co-operative legislation across the country? - WA to approach WA Govt to check if issues have been advanced with the NWP in order that copies of the Green Bill might be circulated to the various Federations for review with the intent of pursuing core consistency and mutual recognition. - Peter Wells to circulate most recent copies of Green Bill to all State Federations - Who will do it? 	PW	End May
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	<p>Is there an opportunity for WA Government to put pressure on the NWP to advance from the point of achieving core consistency? Should CCA write to the State Ministers (on CCA Letterhead) to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - express dissatisfaction at lack of progress from NWP - get the Working Party focusing on the prospect of the WA Green Bill proposing Mutual Recognition - formally write to the various State Ministers and National Working Party - David Osgood to draft a letter for each State representative to consider and return to in turn be able to send to local Ministers and the NWP. - A press release to be drafted to be sent about the activities of the CCA and its initiative with the NWP (Potentially a Council statement followed by an individual State announcement to be pursued at a State Level) 	DO DG	End of May End of May
3.0	<p>State Federations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion was held along the lines that the CCA should take the opportunity to maintain momentum from this gathering by agreeing to a calendar of meetings - Agreement that we commit ourselves to a regular telephone hook up to progress issues and force us to come together on a "loose arrangement" - Agenda to be prepared prior to calls and if it was felt that we should physically meet then that should proceed - Responsibilities to be rotated between States – it was agreed and proposed that SA/David Osgood continue operate the Secretariat role for the time being - CCA is unincorporated and bank accounts have been closed - Agreement to have a teleconference 10.00 am EST Tuesday 24/7 (funded by Vic) and two months after that on Tuesday 18/9 (10.00 am EST) (funded by NSW) - Draft agenda to be circulated by David Osgood and individual States to contribute to the composition of the Agenda 	DO	Mid July
4.0	<p>Co-operative Business Sector Outcome/Agreed Follow-up Action Little support for membership of ICA due to cost and lack of commonality between Australasia and the Asian and sub-continent region into which Aust/NZ membership would fall Agreed that Co-operative Council of Australia continue as a un-incorporated body but with more a structured approach to future communication and meeting arrangements as covered in item 3.0 and generally during the meeting</p>		
5.0	<p>Co-operative Legislation Including WA Legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreement in principle that we need similar to Corps Law regarding Audit Requirements - WA to forward a discussion paper for CCA to consider - Discussion regarding the potential application of federal Corps Act/Co-ops Act running in parallel like NZ. It was agreed that this should be included as an agenda item for the next meetings 	PW	End May
6.0	<p>Role of National Working Party and NSW Co-operative Council Outcome/Agreed Follow-up Action Issues and follow-up action covered under item 3 Agreed that pressure needed to be placed on the NWP to get action</p>		

7.0	<p>Education Initiatives</p> <p>Proposed Retail Co-op Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity was explained by Victorian Federation - Proposed to be held in Nurioopta SA for 2 days possibly in November 2007 - Expressions of interest from other Federations were sought – NSW VIC & SA to get together to finalise the ideas - Workshop cost per day is approx \$150 as a guide (i.e. travel and accommodation is additional) - Information to be circulated to Qld and WA <p>ICA Singapore Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capricorn Society Ltd attending - Inform members only <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Topic left to lay on the table 		
8.0	<p>International Accounting Standards</p> <p>Outcome/Agreed Follow-up Action</p> <p>Noted that NZ was continuing to push for changes</p> <p>Feeling was that unless legislative change took place removing the control members have over repayment of capital little change could be expected</p> <p>NSW view was that current share capital issue was a core requirement</p> <p>CCUs may be an alternative “capital” funding avenue worthy of consideration</p> <p>No follow-up action was discussed other than maintaining a watch on developments in NZ</p>		
9.0	<p>Other Business</p> <p>Outcome/Agreed Follow-up Action</p> <p>No other business raised</p>		
10.0	<p>Summary of Meeting and Agreed Outcomes</p> <p>Outcome/Agreed Follow-up Action</p> <p>Agreed CCA could only work effectively if communication was strong and inclusive</p>		